

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04968 251603Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SES-02 SAA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W
-----108899 251606Z /43

O R 251538Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9405
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4968

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE, SY, IS, MARR
SUBJECT: REMARKS OF NAOUM FARAH, AID TO BACHIR GEMAYEL

1. EMBOFF LUNCED AUGUST 25 WITH NAOUM FARAH AT AU VIEUX
QUARTIER IN ASHRAFIYAH. IN DESERTED DINING ROOM WITH AN ISRAELI
DANCE BEING PIPED OVER THE MUZAK, FARAH SAID THE CHRISTIANS HAD
LOST ALL CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT SARKIS, WHO WAS A PETAIN
COLLABORATING WITH A FOREIGN ENEMY. (COMMENT: THOSE ARE STRONG
WORDS EVEN FOR A FOLLOWER OF BACHIR GEMAYEL.) FARAH ALSO SAID
THE FOLLOWING.

2. BEIRUT.

A. THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS WOULD CONTINUE TO HONOR
THE AUGUST 9 CEASE-FIRE, BUT WOULD NOT DO SO INDEFINITELY.
FIGHTING WOULD RESUME WITHIN ABOUT TWO WEEKS, IF THE SYRIANS
DID NOT MAKE SOME CONCESSION, SUCH AS WITHDRAWING

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04968 251603Z

FROM THE QARANTINA BRIDGE, WITH WHICH THE PHALANGE
COULD APPEASE THE LOCAL POPULATION. IF FIGHTING DID
RESUME, THE CHRISTIAN MILIAS WOULD "GENERALIZE IT"
THROUGHOUT LEBANON.

B. THE SYRIANS HAD DEFINITELY NOT LIVED UP TO THE
AUGUST 9 CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT. THE SYRIANS HAD

UNEQUIVOCALLY MADE A PROMISE TO EVACUATE THE RIZK TOWER AND THE REST OF THEIR POSITIONS IN EAST BEIRUT WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE ORIGINAL WITHDRAWAL FROM EASTERN ASHRAFIYAH. (COMMENT: ADF COMMANDER SAMI KHATIB VIGOROUSLY DENIES ANY SUCH PROMISE. END COMMENT.)

3. SOUTH AND NORTH LEBANON.

A. THE LEBANESE ARMY UNIT IN SOUTH LEBANON WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO BY ROAD THROUGH MARJAYOUN TO TIBNIN AND WOULD PROBABLY "SPEND THE WINTER IN KAWKABA." THE PHALANGE HAD NO PARTICULAR OBJECTION TO THE UNIT GOING BY HELICOPTER, BUT THE GOL WOULD NOT ALLOW IT TO DO SO.

B. PARTISANS OF SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH HAD AMBUSHED AND KILLED NINE PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT OF KOURA, NORTH LEBANON, ON AUGUST 24. ALL OF THE PEOPLE EXCEPT ONE WERE TEENAGERS. TWO OF THE PEOPLE WERE MEMBERS OF THE PHALANGE PARTY. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RESTRAIN THE RELATIVES OF THE DECEASED FROM RETALIATING.

C. ON AUGUST 23 THE SYRIANS HAD ORDERED THE PHALANGE TO CLOSE ALL ITS OFFICES IN ZAHLE. THE PHALANGE WOULD RESIST THIS ORDER BY FORCE IF NECESSARY.

4. THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 04968 251603Z

A. THE ISRAELIS WERE SUPPLYING THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS WITH "SOVIET WEAPONS CAPTURED FROM THE EGYPTIANS." THE ISRAELIS WERE SUPPLY NO TANKS OR AMERICAN-MADE WEAPONS OR AMERICAN MADE AMMUNITION. THE WEAPONS DELIVERED WERE OF SECOND-RATE QUALITY.

B. THE UNITED STATES DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE ARABS IN GENERAL OR THE SYRIANS IN PARTICULAR. THE UNITED STATES THOUGHT THAT JUST BECAUSE THE ARABS MADE AN AGREEMENT THEY WOULD KEEP IT. THIS WAS NOT TRUE. THE SYRIANS WOULD KEEP AN AGREEMENT ONLY IF FORCED TO, FOR EXAMPLE. ONLY THE ISRAELIS UNDERSTOOD THE ARABS.

5. VISITORS.

A. BACHIR GEMAYEL HAD LEFT AUGUST 25 FOR PARIS WHERE HE WOULD SPEND THREE DAYS TO ATTEND THE MARRIAGE OF A FRIEND. (MANY LEBANESE ARE SPECULATING HE WENT TO MEET THE ISRAELIS.)

B. FARAH DID NOT BELIVE CAMILLE CHAMOUN WAS BEGIN'S

MYSTERIOUS VISITOR THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 23. FARAH
CLAIMED THAT CHAMOUN WAS SEEN IN LEBANON AT THE TIME.
KINSOLVING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT04968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780348-0914
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780820/aaaaaqpv.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fd38755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1612868
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REMARKS OF NAOUM FARAH, AID TO BACHIR GEMAYEL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MARR, LE, SY, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd38755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014